

GREATER LOWELL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

April 8, 2010 – 7:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Laferriere called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Members

Present: Mr. Bahou, Mr. Laferriere, Mr. Lenzi, Mr. Morin, Mr. O'Hare, Mr. Olson, Mr. Tully

Mr. O'Neill arrived after roll call.

Also

Present: James Cassin, Superintendent-Director
Mary Jo Santoro, Assistant Superintendent/Principal
John Lavoie, Assistant Superintendent/Curriculum
George Garabedian, School Business Administrator
David Bradley, District Treasurer
Attorney Rosann DiPietro, Legal Counsel
Michael McGovern, Coordinator of School Information
Cheryl Gosselin, Recording Secretary

PUBLIC APPEARANCE

There was no one signed up for public appearance.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS

There were no School Committee communications.

REPORT OF STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Student Representative Joshua Bradbury gave a report of upcoming and recently held events.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: by Mr. Tully, seconded by Mr. Morin to approve the minutes from the meeting of March 11, 2010.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 7 Yes 1 Absent (Mr. O'Neill)

REPORT OF DISTRICT TREASURER

District Treasurer David Bradley distributed the Warrants to the Committee for their approval and signature.

MOTION: by Mr. Tully, seconded by Mr. Lenzi to approve expenditures for the sum of \$2,772,901.37 allocated as follows:

Warrant 1779-1	dated 03/26/10	Accounts Payable	416,984.49
Warrant 1784	dated 04/09/10	Accounts Payable	669,716.99
Warrant 1779-B	dated 03/26/10	Payroll Warrant #217	857,804.98
Warrant 1784-A	dated 04/09/10	Payroll Warrant #219	826,372.05
Warrant 1785	dated 04/09/10	Lowell Five Cent Savings	60.00
Warrant 1783	dated 03/26/10	Bank of America	1,194.65
Warrant 1786	dated 04/09/10	March Meals Tax	768.21

ROLL CALL VOTE: 7 Yes, 1 Absent (Mr. O'Neill)

REPORT OF GENERAL COUNSEL

Attorney DiPietro asked for Executive Session for grievance hearings on four grievances.

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT-DIRECTOR

Superintendent Cassin gave an update on the upcoming golf tournament which will be held on May 3 at Indian Ridge Country Club.

Superintendent Cassin gave an update on upcoming school events.

Next Superintendent Cassin gave an update on broadcasting school committee meetings in response to a request made by Mr. Bahou at the February meeting. He was provided with three options from Director of Media & Professional Development Michael Barton. After discussion on the options it was determined that Option C, mailing DVD copies of the meeting to local cable providers in the four communities in a timely fashion, was the best option to proceed with at this time.

MOTION: by Mr. Tully, seconded by Mr. Lenzi to implement Option C of the April 1, 2010 memo from Mr. Barton which is that DVD copies of the meetings will be mailed to local cable providers in the four communities in a timely fashion.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 Yes

Discussion then took place about other venues to cover the meetings such as radio, broadcasting from the communities, etc.

MOTION: by Mr. Lenzi, seconded by Mr. Olson to have the Technology Sub-Committee investigate other venues to cover meetings.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 Yes

Superintendent Cassin asked for approval for the graphics department students to attend a field trip to the Museum of Modern Art in New York on May 21, 2010.

MOTION: by Mr. Tully, seconded by Mr. Lenzi to approve the request for the graphics department students to attend a field trip to the Museum of Modern Art in New York on May 21, 2010.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 Yes

MOTION: by Mr. Lenzi, seconded by Mr. Tully to recess the regular meeting to open the public hearing.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 Yes

MOTION: by Mr. Tully, seconded by Mr. Lenzi to open the Public Hearing at 7:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 Yes

Chairman Laferriere asked if there was anyone from the public who would like to speak on the FY11 budget. No one spoke on the FY11 budget.

MOTION: by Mr. Lenzi, seconded by Mr. O'Neill to close the Public Hearing at 7:33 p.m.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 Yes

The regular meeting was reconvened.

Chairman Laferriere asked Mr. Garabedian to present the FY11 budget. Mr. Garabedian informed the Board that the proposed FY11 budget is \$32,652,755 which is a .8% increase over the FY10 budget. The assessment increases to the communities is primarily due to increased enrollment. The proposed budget is based on Chapter 70 aid and minimum required contributions from the member communities and is based on the Governor's proposed budget released in January. A portion of the transportation (\$481,198) will also be assessed to the communities. The assessments by community including the required minimum contribution and transportation are:

Dracut	\$2,909,733
Dunstable	\$ 168,763
Lowell	\$5,640,409
Tyngsboro	\$1,035,975

There are no salary increases proposed in the FY11 budget. The estimated E&D balance at the end of June 2010 will be between 2-3%. The budget, although very lean, still meets the instructional and support needs of the students and staff in providing a quality and technical education and it continues to improve student achievement in academic and technical study areas including MCAS.

Chairman Laferriere asked Mr. Tully to present the report of the April 1, 2010 Finance Subcommittee meeting out of order. The subcommittee voted to adopt the "Preliminary Budget for 2010-2011" based on the Governor's proposed budget as presented and recommends acceptance by the full School Committee.

MOTION: by Mr. Tully, seconded by Mr. Lenzi to accept the preliminary budget of \$32,652,755 knowing that it is susceptible to change when the Commonwealth of Massachusetts adopts its final budget for FY2010-2011.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 Yes

MOTION: by M r. Tully, seconded by Mr. Lenzi to accept the report of the April 1, 2010 Finance Sub-Committee meeting.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 Yes

Chairman Laferriere returned to the agenda.

Superintendent Cassin stated he would be requesting Executive Session at the end of the meeting to discuss negotiations.

Mr. Olson asked how GLTHS was handling the new legislation recently implemented regarding bullying in schools. Superintendent Cassin asked Assistant Superintendent/Principal Mary Jo Santoro and Director of Guidance Valerie Murphy to give an update on the efforts being taken at GLTHS regarding bullying. They gave a recap of a recently held staff in-service bullying presentation. A copy of the presentation was given to Board members for reference.

REPORT OF BUSINESS MANAGER

Mr. Garabedian provided an MSBA and energy service update. He recapped a meeting recently held at GLTHS to discuss the district's building renovation project. At that meeting Ms. Craven, MSBA Executive Director, indicated that projects funded thru MSBA require that the member communities share in the cost of the project. She also indicated that the energy program work must be considered as a totally separate project for the district. Ms. Craven stated that we would need to separate what parts of the renovation project would be funded through MSBA and what parts would be funded through energy service programs.

Mr. O'Neill discussed his efforts on bringing green energy and alternative energy to GLTHS. He stated that energy conservation equipment including a new roof and new roof top units could be purchased at no cost to the feeder communities through a PPA (purchase power agreement).

MOTION: by Mr. O'Neill, seconded by Mr. O'Hare to request the Superintendent and Business Administrator begin exploring the feasibility of procuring energy management services for the installation of energy conservation equipment, including roof and roof top unit replacement which are to be paid from the savings attributable to a reduction in energy consumption, thereby eliminating the need to seek funding from the member communities.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 Yes

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Laferriere presented Mr. Tully with an appreciation plaque for his past year as Chairman.

REPORT OF SUB-COMMITTEES

MOTION: by Mr. O'Hare, seconded by Mr. Olson to approve the report of the March 11, 2010 Superintendent Search subcommittee.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 Yes

Next Mr. O'Hare gave a report of the March 30, 2010 Superintendent Search subcommittee. This meeting was held to review the applications submitted for employment for the Superintendent's position. 20 people requested applications, 6 applications were received with one received after the deadline which was disqualified. After review of the 5 applications three applicants are being recommended to the committee as they meet all the required qualifications set forth. The three candidates will be presented as finalists.

MOTION: by Mr. Tully, seconded by Mr. O'Neill to accept the report and recommendations of the March 30, 2010 Superintendent Search Subcommittee.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 Yes

Mr. O'Hare announced that the three finalists for the position of Superintendent-Director of Greater Lowell Technical High School are (alphabetically) Jane Connell, Robert McCarthy and Mary Jo Santoro. An interview process and interview schedule will be set up. All interviews will be held in open session. Questions to be asked at the interview can be emailed to Attorney DiPietro who will review them for legality. She will forward a list of questions that legally cannot be asked during an interview.

MOTION: by Mr. Lenzi, seconded by Mr. O'Neill to go into Executive Session for grievance hearings regarding the teachers' association.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 Yes

MOTION: by Mr. Tully, seconded by Mr. Lenzi to go into Executive Session regarding negotiations.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 Yes

ADJOURN

MOTION: by Mr. Laferriere, seconded by Mr. Lenzi to adjourn the meeting at 10:47 p.m.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 6 Yes, 2 Absent (Mr. O'Hare, Mr. Tully)

Respectfully submitted,

James M. Cassin
Superintendent-Director